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Reserve

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

WHITE RIVER  
NATIONAL FOREST



OCTOBER 11, 1941

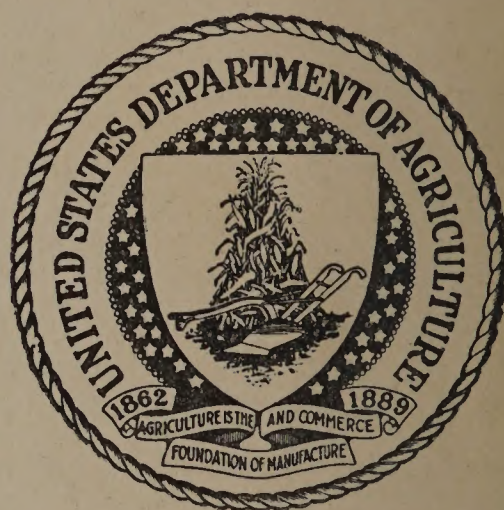


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## WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST PERSONNEL—1941

*Supervisor* . . . . . EDWARD WRIGHT*Assistant Supervisor* . . . . . DONALD W. SHAW*Administrative Assistant* . . . . . L. J. STAAB*Clerk* . . . . . JOHN THOMAS KIMBLE*District Rangers:* Burns Hole . . . . . GORDON VAN BUREN

Burro Mountain . . . . . JOHN A. RUNDGREN

Glenwood . . . . . RAYMOND O. TAYLOR

Sleepy Cat . . . . . BENJAMIN M. WHITEHILL

Williams Fork . . . . . EDWARD L. BESONDY

Timber Sales (Assistant Ranger) . . . . .

. . . . . RAYMOND BENNETT

## WHITE RIVER ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

JACK NASSAU, *General Chairman*JASPER J. FRENCH, *Secretary*BEN WHITEHILL, *Program Committee*LARROY PURDY, *Parade Committee*J. N. NEAL, *Publicity Committee*CHARLES MARSHALL, *Entertainment Committee*

NOV 5 1945



## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

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1891

March 3. Congress authorized the President to establish forest reserves from the public domain.

October 16. The White River Plateau Timberland Reserve set aside by executive order of President Benjamin Harrison. The first in Colorado; the second in the United States. Area 1,198,080 acres.

1897

June 4. Law enacted by Congress providing for the organization and management of the forest reserves, and placing their administration under the General Land Office of the Department of Interior.

1898

George B. Sudworth made the first study of the resources in the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve, and report was issued by the U. S. Geological Survey.

August 13. Charles W. Ramer appointed first supervisor of White River Reserve. Three rangers appointed and administration started.

1901

Theodore Roosevelt hunted mountain lions in White River Region.

1902

The first ranger station was constructed by Ranger J. V. Seaman on Bear River.

June 28. President Theodore Roosevelt eliminated 68,160 acres and changed the name from White River Plateau Timberland Reserve to White River Forest Reserve.

1904

May 21. President Theodore Roosevelt eliminated 159,040 acres from the White River Forest.

1905

February 1. Administration of the forest reserves transferred from the General Land Office, U. S. Department of Interior, to the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.



## 1906

November 15. James A. Blair appointed supervisor. His term of office continued for twenty-one and a half years.

## 1907

The name "forest reserves" was changed to "national forests" by Act of Congress, to indicate that the resources of these areas are not locked up as "reserves" for a distant future.

## 1909

January 1. District Office established in Denver, to replace the inspector system from Washington.

## 1911

March. Forest supervisor's office at Meeker destroyed by fire and all records were lost. First range and timber survey work started on the forest.

## 1917

January 6. Supervisor's office moved from Meeker to Glenwood Springs, in Post Office Building.

## 1926-1931

New Castle-Buford road was constructed. This shortened travel distance from the Colorado to White River watershed on the forest, and made timber stands available for harvesting.

## 1929-1933

Ripple Creek-Williams Fork road constructed, making north end of forest (Yampa River watershed) accessible to other districts.

## 1931-1933

Construction of road up White River from Marvine to Trappers Lake.

## 1932

March 5. Flat Tops Primitive Area designated by Chief Forester R. Y. Stuart.

## 1941

October 11. Golden Anniversary of establishment of White River National Forest celebrated at Meeker, Colorado.



## HISTORY OF WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

On October 16, 1891, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation establishing the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve. Authority for the creation of forest reserves had been granted by Congress under the Act of March 3, 1891, as a result of the depredations that fire, uncontrolled and wasteful timber cutting, and excessive grazing were causing to the public domain. Many citizens were afraid that unless some action was taken to protect and administer these lands, they would eventually be ruined. On account of the need for united action along that line the Colorado Forestry Association had been formed early in 1884, and their efforts had been directed toward the establishment of forest reserves.

The newspaper files of that period indicate that many of the local people were doubtful regarding the proposed forest reserves.

The Meeker *Herald* of October 3, 1891, says: "The National Park scheme is again being revived, this time under guise of a timber preservation reserve. Before taking any steps in this matter, we hope the powers that be will learn the wishes of the citizens of Rio Blanco County concerning this project. We might have some suggestions to offer."

From this stand of suspended judgment antagonism to the proposed reserve increased, and the *Herald* of October 17, 1891, states: "When the Park is established won't that place become famous for hunting and fishing? Oh, yes, Uncle Sam will let you have all the sport you want—outside the boundaries."

The antagonism turned to horror, in the October 24, 1891, issue of the *Herald*, which brought the news that President Harrison had issued a proclamation withdrawing 1,198,080 acres. The *Herald* states: "The figures are appalling and it is no wonder that the people are aroused. The Glenwood citizens and papers formerly enthusiastic are now appalled by the edict. Arrangements can be made whereby three counties can join hands in a solid phalanx against *the dude design for an outdoor museum and managerie* as the Rifle Reveille plainly puts it."

The unpopularity of the reserve idea continued unabated, and in the November 14, 1891 issue, the *Herald* comments: "If the game protectors wish to preserve the game why don't they see to it that money is raised to employ game wardens, to look after the professional hunters, the Indians, the Denver bankers, and other sports who kill game for fun and for antlers. If these good people (the park projectors) wish to preserve the forest why don't they take measures



to prevent forest fires which are generally started by careless campers? There is more timber destroyed in one year by the smoldering fires left by tourists than would be destroyed in twenty years by the two sawmills that now supply the lumber used by the citizens of Rio Blanco County."

Congress made no provision for the protection and administration of the forest reserves until 1897, and no funds were available for this purpose until July 1, 1898. The use and abuse of the forest and its resources continued unabated during this period.

### Forest Placed Under Administration

On August 4, 1898, Colonel W. T. S. May, a Denver attorney, was appointed superintendent of the forest reserves in Colorado and Utah, and he started to organize the various reserves. On August 13, 1898, Charles W. Ramer, of Fort Collins, was appointed supervisor of the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve, with headquarters at Meeker.

Jack Dunn, Harry Gibler, and Solon C. Patterson apparently were the first rangers appointed. According to the records of the Bureau of Archives, Jack Dunn was the first ranger assigned to the White River Reserve. He was appointed August 30, 1898.

Fire suppression occupied the attention of the newly appointed forest officers, and it is of interest to note this item from the *Meeker Herald* of October 7, 1898:

"Col. W. T. S. May, commissioner of the forest reserves, came in from Denver on Thursday's stage and yesterday left for the fire stricken district to investigate fires. He promised to take some decisive steps to stop further destruction of the forests by fires."

Records regarding early-day rangers and supervisors are rather fragmentary and this account may not be entirely complete, since frequent changes in assignment seemed to be the order of the day. For example, in January, 1899, Mr. Ramer was transferred to ranger duties and Frank J. Steinmetz, who had been supervisor of the South Platte Forest Reserve, with headquarters at Buffalo Creek, had the White River added to his jurisdiction.

The *Meeker Herald* of July 22, 1899, states: "The recently appointed forest rangers for the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve assumed their respective stations during the past week. The reserve is divided into nine districts and each ranger has his own dis-



strict to look after. Rio Blanco County is represented on the force by the following gentlemen: B. L. Nichols, Solon C. Patterson, J. A. Simms, and Harry Gibler. The duty of the rangers is mainly to observe that the timber regulations are not violated by careless campers and prevent squatters from locating on the reserve. In addition they will assist the State authorities in the local game laws."

The September 16, 1899, issue states: "J. F. Steinmetz, forest supervisor for this district, was in town Thursday, attending to official business. Mr. S. has a force of 9 deputies under him and a very efficient service has been maintained this season owing to the fact that he has gone out into the woods and looked personally after the territory in his charge. His men have been satisfied with the distribution of their duties and many fires have been extinguished before doing any damage. This is a happy contrast with last year when many valuable tracts were destroyed. Mr. Steinmetz understands his duties and is industrious in their execution. He seems to be the man for the place."

Peter Randolph Morris served as supervisor of the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve during 1900 and 1901, and Messrs. Gibler, Dunn and Patterson are again listed as rangers. Mr. Morris was on duty during the summer months only and White River activities were handled by the supervisor of the Battlement Mesa Forest Reserve during the winter. In fact, the records reveal that the Battlement Mesa and White River Reserves were consolidated from February 11, 1902, until May 1, 1902, and were in charge of Oliver T. Curtis, with headquarters at DeBeque.

On May 1, 1902, the two reserves were once more separated and William L. Veatch, of Meeker, was appointed supervisor of the White River Forest Reserve. His tenure continued through 1905. Mr. Veatch was a Civil War veteran and the Meeker *Herald* reported on June 20, 1902, that upper White River settlers seemed well pleased with the administration of Supervisor Veatch.

The record fails to show when, how, or why Mr. Veatch ended his services, but apparently it was about July 1, 1905, for, again referring to the Meeker *Herald*, of November 4, 1905, we find that "Chief Ranger Harry Gibler has moved his headquarters to town and is opening up an office in Dick Stone's residence."

Mr. Gibler continued as "ranger in charge" until November 15, 1906, when James A. Blair, deputy forest ranger on the Leadville Forest, was promoted to the supervisorship of the White River. Mr. Blair continued as supervisor until his sudden death on June 18, 1928,



from heart failure. Lewis R. Rist was transferred from the Leadville Forest on July 9, 1928, to succeed Mr. Blair, and continued in this capacity until July 22, 1935, when he was transferred to the supervision of the Uncompahgre. Edward Wright, the present supervisor, succeeded Mr. Rist by promotion from the position of assistant supervisor of the Pike.

Many forest officers well known throughout the State and the Region have served on the White River. Among them is Frank E. Loring, who was ranger from August 1, 1907, through 1918, and who retired some years ago while serving on the San Juan. Mr. Loring is now Mayor of the Town of Bayfield, Colorado. Others include Elmer E. Stephenson and D. Kirk Shaw (both deceased); R. W. Allen, of Cody, Wyoming; G. P. Baird, of Reading, Pennsylvania; Crosby A. Hoar, now in charge of State Cooperation of the Eastern Forest Service Region (R-7); Robert W. McDonald, now engaged in the livery business at the fashionable Palm Springs, California, resort; Harold L. Borden, now supervisor of the Cumberland National Forest in Kentucky; Lewis A. Hahn, a rancher of Rangley, Colorado; Rich R. Thomson, of the Grazing Service; and Sidney E. Moyle and John Shields. There are many other younger men connected with the U. S. Forest Service or other organizations, who received their training on the White River.

### BOUNDARY CHANGES

There were many complaints from settlers that the boundary of the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve, as originally proclaimed, contained agricultural and grazing lands needed for the development of the country. The Act of June 4, 1897, which provided for the organization and management of the reserves, also authorized the President "to modify any Executive Order that has been or may hereafter be made establishing any forest reserve and by such modification may reduce the area or change the boundary line of such reserve or may vacate altogether any order creating such reserve."

Under this authority, 68,160 acres were eliminated from the Forest Reserve by proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt on June 28, 1902, and the name was changed to White River Forest Reserve. By proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt of May 21, 1904, 159,040 acres were also eliminated. Smaller eliminations were made by Presidents Taft and Wilson, and the net area of the White River National Forest is now 895,339 acres.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE FOREST

An excellent description of the White River National Forest is given as a part of the 20th annual report of the U. S. Geological Survey for 1898-99, and is based upon a study of the Forest made by George B. Sudworth in the summer of 1898.

### COMMUNICATION

Sudworth reported that in 1898: "A few short and little-traveled wagon roads penetrate the reserve, either to summer resorts or to the main agricultural regions along White and Williams rivers, the two main water courses within this reserve. . . . Illicit lumbering operations, timber and tie cutting, together with prospective mining operations, have caused the construction of a few other short wagon roads leading into this reserve, the longest ranging from 15 to 20 miles. In a few cases ranchmen settled within the reserve have built short wagon roads up into the timbered "hills" for a distance of 5 to 10 miles, over which fuel, building, and fencing materials have been and are drawn. Settlers have also cut out and maintain many short wagon roads within the reserve, running from the settled river valleys into grazing districts, where the mutual interests of cattle and horse ranges combine to maintain summer camps and headquarters for round-ups.

"The reserve is also traversed from north to south by several trails, usually connecting the small mail posts and running to various camping and fishing resorts. The old Ute Indian trail, which goes from the vicinity of Meeker (formerly the White River Indian Agency), in a southeasterly direction to the Grand River Valley, which was formerly much used by these Indians, is still well marked where it traverses grassy parks and high plateaus, but in timbered districts is generally quite impassable owing to the constant fall of dead timber. The trails are kept open chiefly by the travel of sportsmen who annually visit certain points in the reserve."

The first canyon road was built by Henry Morrow, contractor, in 1890, from Dotsero to Glenwood Springs. In 1886, George Bennett, a sawmill operator, built the road from Glenwood Springs to a mill setting near Windy Point. During the following few years, he built the road on to the Hip Roof mill setting, moving the mill there in 1899. Charles Schleisher was employed by Bennett and helped construct practically all of this road. In July of 1889, Mr. Schleisher took the first wagon from the Hip Roof mill setting to the head of Buck Creek, carrying a load of wine for a camping party at Trappers Lake. For some years after, this road was used quite extensively by



stages taking hunting and fishing parties to Deep Lake and on toward Trappers and Marvine Lakes.

Previous to 1904, the only road to Sweetwater Lake was by way of Monaker Hill. This road left the canyon of the Colorado or Grand River, at a point just north of the mouth of Deep Creek, and followed the high ridge to the mesa country to the east of Deep Creek Canyon, thence across the mesas and down to Sweetwater Creek at a point several miles below the Sweetwater Lake. It was then called, as it is at the present time, the Monaker Hill road, taking its name from Samuel Monaker, an early trapper, market hunter, and prospector. In 1904, the road leading from the mouth of Deep Creek to the mouth of Sweetwater Creek was constructed. At about the same time, or shortly after, the road up Sweetwater Creek to connect with the Monaker road was constructed.

That part of the Flat Tops had been traveled with wagons long before the country surrounding was settled. This was proven by the finding of an old wagon by early prospectors on what is now called Wagon-Wheel Creek. Old timers report that at a point on the South Fork of the White River just below the falls, they found many trees that had been partly girdled by ropes used in snubbing wagons down the steep mountain side. It is the opinion of some that the wagons were Army wagons taken in at the time the White River Ute Indian Agency was established.

The old road up West Elk Creek to Seaman Park is said to have been built by a man named Harris, constructed in 1886 for the purpose of getting out wild hay. In an old history of Colorado, it is said that at the time of the Meeker Massacre in 1879 there was a trail or road passable for wagons from Montrose over Grand Mesa to the present location of Rifle, thence over the hills to Meeker. In 1887 or 1888, M. C. Vanderverter built a road up Rifle Creek and thence down Miller Creek to the White River.

In contrast with this condition of forty years ago, there are now fine highways in the valleys surrounding the forest; also from Meeker up White River to Trappers Lake; also up Ripple Creek to the Williams River drainage. The western part of the White River Plateau is crossed by the road from New Castle to Buford. As a whole, however, the Flat Tops must be traveled by horse and pack outfit, much as in the early days of the settlement of this region. In fact, this beautiful country is being preserved in its natural state, and roads, resorts, and other works of man have been banned. This area is the



summer range for large herds of deer and elk, as well as domestic livestock.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

The White River valley became known after the Meeker Massacre of September 29, 1879. The Army established a post known as "Camp on White River, Colorado," and maintained it until August, 1883.

The Meeker townsite company was established after the Army left. Cattle herds increased from nothing in 1883 to twenty-five or thirty thousand head in 1885. The hard winter of 1885-86 affected the herds in White River, but was not as disastrous as the collapse of the "beef bonanza" in other parts of the West.

The Meeker *Herald* was established August 15, 1885, by Houston and Lyttle. At that time Meeker was connected with Rawlins, Wyoming, by telegraph and a tri-weekly stage. The *Herald* reported that a sawmill was producing lumber on Little Beaver "which compared favorably in quality and price with the eastern lumber." The Powell Park ditch was under construction. The principal industry was stock-raising and "the only danger to the business now is a tendency to overstock the range." The suggestion of summering the cattle on the higher ranges during the summer was considered as a measure to save the valley grass for winter.

Colorow, an aged Ute chief, described as "wearing green goggles, and a dudish mustache—9 on each side," was roaming on upper White River, killing game and burning range from a base camp near the forks of the river. The settlers were tired of the "gentle savage" and constantly were agitating for his return to the reservation.

Settlement was along the water courses where water was available for irrigating hay lands. Post Offices were established at Buford in 1890 and at Marvine in 1905.

The Town of Meeker grew up around the Military Post shortly after it was established in 1881, and a Post Office was started about the same time. Meeker was incorporated November 4, 1885.

Before there was any settlement at the present site of Glenwood Springs, the hot springs were called the Grand Springs, or Grand River Hot Springs. The first permanent settlement was made in 1882, calling the town Defiance, later Barlow. Next the name was changed to Glenwood Springs by Izaac Cooper, in honor of his home town of Glenwood, Iowa.



During the summer of 1880 a man by the name of Bell, John Blake, a Frenchman named Cleiopfar, and one or two others found mineral at Carbonate, about 18 to 20 miles north of Glenwood Springs. During the late fall of 1880, while the same party was seeking a place to winter their horses, they found mineral at a place which was afterwards called Defiance, located on north rim of Colorado Canyon about eight miles east of Glenwood Springs. During the winter of 1880-81 the party lived in the Colorado Canyon above the mouth of French Creek. During the winter, Cleiopfar, the Frenchman, had trouble with others of the party and left them, building himself a cabin up in the canyon of what has since been known as French Creek.

In the summer of 1881, the party built a small fort at Defiance for protection from the Indians, and did considerable development work at that camp and at Carbonate.

It is also claimed by other authorities that the first mineral discovery at Carbonate was made by a George P. Ryan, of Pennsylvania, in 1881. Whether Ryan was a member of the Bell-Blake party has not been determined.

The fame of Carbonate spread until the spring of 1883, when it is said that from 6000 to 7000 people crossed the Grand River at Dotsero, en route to the new boom.

On February 10, 1883, the Act of State Legislature creating Garfield County was approved, and Carbonate was designated as the county seat. Prior to this, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Eagle, and Lake counties were a part of Summit County.

The Town of Carbonate flourished during the summer of '83, having a population of 3000 people. Stores, residences, saloons and dance halls were built, and the camp had every appearance of being a permanent one. In the meantime, the camp of Defiance, under the leadership of John C. Blake, was growing and there was considerable rivalry between the two camps as to which would outgrow the other.

A paper, the first one in Garfield County, was arranged for at Carbonate. Several hundred dollars were contributed by local citizens to the prospective publisher and a printing press and equipment was purchased and freighted into Carbonate on the snow. About the time the printing equipment arrived, however, the camp blew up and the proposed paper, to be known as the *Garfield County Standard*, never materialized.

It appears probable that the first wagons to reach Carbonate



were brought in during the spring of 1883. During May and June of this year a wagon road was built at Dotsero, just above the location of the present bridge. James Dilts is said to have pulled the steel truss rods for the bridge on a hand sled from Red Cliff to Avon, traveling at night on the snow crust. The wagon road from Dotsero to Carbonate left the Grand River near the bridge, and followed a ridge through the Willow Springs and Coffee Pot country.

At a meeting of the County Commissioners on August 21, 1883, a resolution was adopted that since there was no suitable building in Carbonate for storing and protecting the county records, and no funds available for the erection of a building, the records should be temporarily stored in Glenwood Springs for the winter months, and that Glenwood Springs would be considered the temporary county seat. It is said that the records were brought to Glenwood Springs by Charles Brown in October of that year, the entire outfit being packed down on a white mule.

The records of the meeting of the County Commissioners on January 8, 1884, show that a Board of Viewers was appointed to locate a road to extend from the mouth of Miller Creek on White River to Carbonate, with the proviso that the work of viewing the road should be deferred until the snow was gone the following summer. By the time the snow was gone so that the road could be located, the Carbonate boom had died, and only a few old prospectors were left. Prospecting in a desultory manner was carried on for a few years longer at Carbonate and Defiance, but finally the camps were completely abandoned and only a few old cabins and prospect holes mark the place of shattered hopes.

## TIMBER

The Government operated a sawmill in connection with the Indian Agency on White River. It was located on what is now Ed Wilber's ranch above Meeker.

In 1883, a man by the name of Blood put in a small sawmill at Broken Rib, a small stream tributary to Grizzly Creek. This mill was later moved to Carbonate camp and operated there a short time.

In about 1884 or 1885, George Bennett set up a mill in Glenwood Springs near the mouth of the Roaring Fork, floating logs down both the Roaring Fork and Grand Rivers to the mill.

In the summer of 1886, he put in a mill at a point about one-quarter mile west of Transfer Springs, moving that fall to a set just above Windy Point. In the fall of 1887 the mill was moved on toward



Deep Lake about two miles. In 1889, he moved the mill to a small park at the head of a branch of Noname Creek, now called Hip Roof Park. The name is derived from a large hip-roof cabin he constructed at this place. This type of roof was built to resist the weight of heavy snows, with an extra door in the roof about 12 feet from the ground, to be used in winter season. That the builder accomplished his purpose is attested by the fact that at the present time, 52 years later, the roof of the cabin is still weathering the heavy winter snows.

From 1889 to 1894 or 1895, the Hip Roof mill was idle part of the time. In the last mentioned year, the machinery was moved out.

About 1889, or at the time the city water flume from Noname was constructed, George Bennett built a road up Noname Creek. Between the mouth of the creek and the forks of east and west Noname, he operated the mill at four settings. At the last setting, just above Box Canyon, he was operating the mill at the time of his death in 1906. No work has been done there since that time.

During the building of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in 1887, many ties were cut by contractors in the Grand River Canyon. In 1897-98-99, Henry Webber and others cut ties in Deep Creek Canyon, floating them to Dotsero.

In the summer of 1900, Kamm Brothers of New Castle were operating a sawmill and tie camp on the headwaters of West Elk Creek. At this time the wagon road did not extend a great distance beyond the sawmill, but was built up on the Flat Tops soon after. Sudworth states that logging began in Elk Creek in 1897.

Until rules for the administration of the forest reserves were established in 1898, there was no method of purchasing or cutting timber in them. It was generally understood that settlers might remove dead timber from the reserves, and it was the general belief that forest fires quite often occurred a short time before sawmills were set up in certain localities. Some operators did not bother to take this precaution, since Government agents seldom visited these backwoods areas. Moreover, the material was needed for the development of the country, and it must be remembered that the title "forest reserve" was one in fact as well as in name.

Sudworth reported numerous cases of timber cutting, of which the earliest was about 1885. He estimated that about 86,000,000 feet, board measure, had been cut on the forest up to the time of his examination in 1898. Most of the mills were small, sawing from 2000 to 5000 feet a day, and the logging season seldom lasted more



than six months a year. This cut would not have been detrimental to the forest, in the light of present day knowledge of stands and growth, had it not been for the disastrous fires that occurred before or after the logging.

Sudworth, in his report of 1898, roughly classified the type of land in the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve. Although these figures, of necessity, were approximations, and although the area of the forest is 24% less now than in 1898, it is of interest to make some comparisons with recent estimates.

### Sudworth's Report

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Area commercial timber land.....	491,200	41
Area burns .....	171,620	14
Area brush land .....	357,324	30
Area grass land.....	178,662	15
	<hr/>	
Total .....	1,198,806	

### Timber Management Report—1940

Area Engelman spruce type.....	265,022	
Area lodgepole pine type.....	48,335	
Area Douglas fir type.....	21,860	
Area pinon-juniper type .....	6,387	
Area ponderosa & limber pine & blue spruce....	1,651	
	<hr/>	
Total area coniferous timber .....	343,255	37
" aspen type .....	306,703	34
" grass land .....	181,585	23
" brush land .....	49,656	5
" barren land .....	12,415	1
	<hr/>	
Total .....	893,614	

Considerable of the land reported by Sudworth as grass and brush land was undoubtedly eliminated from the forest. Also, a large proportion of the 1898 classification "burns" is now probably covered with aspen or coniferous species. The present day grassland type consists mostly of the open park or mountain meadow lands on the White River Plateau. Since organized fire protection has been in effect there has been opportunity for the old burns to reforest, and 29,000 acres listed in 1940 under coniferous stands are covered with the younger age classes.



Sudworth estimates that the White River Reserve contained 1,415,000,000 board feet of standing timber, whereas the 1940 estimate is about 4,000,000,000 board feet. The present day cut, made in accordance with forestry principles, amounts to about 2,500,000 feet, board measure, annually. This can be increased to approximately 20,000,000 feet, placing the forest on a sustained yield basis. This again illustrates the beneficial effect of the protection and management that has been given to the forest since the turn of the century.

## FIRE

Sudworth devotes considerable space in his report to the damage caused by forest fires. He estimated that the total area burned by old fires on the reserve was 171,620 acres, and that 85,900,000 feet, board measure, of commercial timber was destroyed. This loss is small for a burned area of this size, and this is probably due to the amount of brush, aspen covered, and cut-over lands included in his estimate. He mentions that the greater number of these fires burned over land devastated by old fires, involving but little valuable timber. Two general burns appeared to have occurred—one about 19 or 20 years previous to his 1898 study, or probably in 1879, the year of the Indian uprisings and the Meeker Massacre. The other large burn occurred 10 to 12 years previous, or about 1887, the dates when the Utes were moved from the region to the reservation. This checks with the story current among the settlers that most of the fires were set by Ute Indians.

However, the Ute Indians cannot be blamed for all of the fire damage. Forest fires occurred annually, often with no attempt to extinguish them unless some settlement was threatened. Sudworth states that his observations and the consensus of the residents of the region were that most of the fires during the "nineties" were caused by the large number of reckless, lawless, irresponsible hunters and fishermen who frequented the region during the summer and fall.

Sawmill operators were also accused of setting fire to desirable blocks of commercial timber, with the idea that they would not be arrested by Government inspectors for stealing the timber since it was dead. Ranchers and settlers, Mr. Sudworth says, were interested in the prevention of forest fires, as they understood the relationship between forest cover and water supply. However, the cow-punchers of that day were not so careful with matches and fire.

Mr. Guy Stealey, an early-day settler, reported to Ranger John A. Rundgren that the Crooks Park fire of September, 1892, started by an incendiary about one mile above Buford with the intention of



burning out an adjoining ranch, was fought by a crew of local men. This fire was finally controlled by a snowstorm, but destroyed many migrating deer and made a clean burn of the country, which restocked to aspen and lodgepole pine.

The Sleepy Cat fire of 1898 started on Allison Mountain and was set by two lost hunters who laid out overnight and abandoned a big camp fire which they set to protect themselves from bear, lions and wolves, without extinguishing it. This fire burned Fawn Creek, under Sleepy Cat, jumped the river near Lost Creek, and spread from there to Marvine Creek and the 101 Ranch. This fire was spotted in the afternoon of the day it started and a crew attempted control the following morning under the direction of Superintendent Colonel Mays. The fire was fought unsuccessfully for seventeen days and nights. On the seventeenth day the fire made a big run driven by very high wind. This wind was followed by a snowstorm. Hunters from Marvine Lodge preferred hunting to fire fighting, and cashed in on this fire by hunting along the edges of the fire and were able to bag numerous bear and mountain lions. Deer bunched and were burned in parks or suffocated. Grouse escaped mostly by flying to river bottom.

In contrast with these accounts of wanton and uncontrolled fires which, if they had continued as they ravaged the White River country from 1879 to the end of the century, would have destroyed most of the timber and watershed values, the present day picture is more encouraging. The small force of forest rangers fought forest fires, enlisted the cooperation of the citizens of the region, and prosecuted those who were careless with fires. As a result, starting with 1909, which is the first year for which records are available, through 1940, only 779 acres of land on the White River National Forest were burned over. This is quite a contrast to Sudworth's estimate that 80,000 acres were burned over in the White River Reserve during the season of 1898. It illustrates that conservation can be carried out with the support and cooperation of the public.

## GRAZING

Guy Stealey, of Buford, Colorado, early-day settler, says that the first cattle on upper White River were owned by the Boot outfit, which ran steers and branded with a life-size boot. This was about 1884. The company lost about 90% of their herd trying to winter their cattle in the vicinity of Buford.

In September, 1885, the *Meeker Herald* reported: "The country is stocked to the fullest capacity and is considered overstocked by some of the most practical stockmen." Perhaps this was premonition



of the disastrous winter and spring that followed, in which so many cattle perished.

Cattle were brought into the Eagle River Valley in the summer of 1878 or 1879. As the cattle were trailed from Texas and were said to have reached the valley in the fall of the year, it appears probable that they arrived in 1878, in numbers variously reported as from 3000 to 5000 head. They were owned by a young man named John Ames, an inexperienced lad who had been staked by a wealthy father in the East. The cattle were wintered along the Eagle River between Eagle and Dotsero, and the greater portion died the first winter. Cow outfits from the White River and Piceance country trailed large herds to the shipping point at Dotsero, and en route came through and held over on the Coffee Pot and Willow Springs ranges. About 1887 Silas Meadows ran cattle on the Flat Tops near Glenwood Springs. A herd of several hundred head was grazed in the Elbow and Hay Press Park country. Mitchell Brothers had run horses there in previous years, but these were the first cattle to use that range.

Sudworth reported that there were large herds of cattle and horses on the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve in 1898—"doubtless many thousand." He indicated that there were too many stock, stating: "Throughout all the open unburned forest region on this reserve there is a most unaccountable absence of conifer seedlings under 10 years of age. The spruce and fir bear an abundance of seed at periods of two or three years, but no young seedlings are to be found among and near these trees where cattle have trodden. . . . Contrasted with these conditions are the tangled masses of logs and litter left by fire, literally impassable to animals, where young seedlings may be found in small numbers. They are well guarded from all intruders."

There are occasional references in the *Meeker Herald* to the grazing of sheep on the White River. In 1899 Superintendent May is quoted as saying that sheep would not be permitted on the reserve, as the Government had forbidden the pasturing of sheep on the forest reserves in every western state except Oregon and Washington. Eventually they were allowed in certain sections.

In about 1905, Steve Baxter and Austin Gavin ran a band of sheep on the range skirting the present south boundary of the forest on the north side of the river between Canyon and Noname Creeks. In 1906 Joe Hunn bought the Baxter-Gavin herd, and grazed sheep on the forest continuously up to 1933.



Over the years that have passed since the forest was placed under administration, forest officers, working with stock associations, have figured out methods of handling livestock on the White River Forest ranges for the best interests of the stockmen and the public. Important watershed values, wildlife, timber cutting, recreation and other uses that are made of national forests managed under the multiple use system, are each given due consideration. Approximately 28,000 head of cattle and 94,000 head of sheep owned by 278 ranchers, most of them living in the White River territory, have their summer range in the Forest.

## GAME

The White River Forest and adjacent territory is considered one of the greatest game countries in the West. Elk, bear, sheep and deer were found in countless numbers in all sections. It is one of the few game countries where the natural migration still continues as it was, prior to the advent of the white man. Deer and elk move in the spring from Piceance, Douglas, and lower White River to the Flat Tops, where they range throughout the summer, and back to the lower country in the fall.

Aside from the hunting by Indians, there was little hunting by white people in the district until Leadville and the Red Cliff mining regions started operations in the late 70's. Beef was expensive and was hard to obtain at these camps, which resulted in a regular business of market hunting starting on the Western Slope. Early settlers in the Eagle and Grand River valleys had for some years had no income other than that obtained through the sale of elk and deer meat and furs. It is related that in the early 80's Leadville parties hired local hunters to kill elk in the Sweetwater country at \$1.00 per head. Jack Burns, an old timer in the Burns Hole district, is said to have killed 47 elk on Sweetwater Creek in one day's time. Only the saddle and hind quarters were taken, these being hacked and hauled to Red Cliff and Leadville. It is said that venison saddles were often sold for as little as \$1.50 apiece in Red Cliff. At times the meat could hardly be sold at all, the hunters exchanging it for what provisions they could get. Most of the hunters wore buckskin clothing, and used elk tusks for buttons.

During the winter season some of the men engaged in trapping, the principal furs taken being beaver, fox, and marten.

Solon C. Patterson, a pioneer and one of the early-day forest rangers (appointed in 1899) says, in an "old-timers" letter collected as a WPA historical project: "In the summer of '89 I killed about



700 deer and pulled their hides off just for the hides. That fall, I got 43 bear near Lost Park. I shipped the hides to Chicago and they netted me clear \$1.50 apiece. I got anywhere from \$10 to \$30 for bear hides. Everybody killed game for the hides and made money that way. I'll tell you a fact. In '89 I could ride up anywhere and there would be 40 to 50 bucks lying in one bunch. You could ride up to within a few feet of them. I killed 23 bucks in one day and jerked the hides off. . . . ”

The Meeker *Herald* of November 19, 1882, says: “Again is the western part of Routt and Rio Blanco counties the scene of a wholesale slaughtering of deer. The depredations in the main are being committed by the Indians, but it appears that there are also a few white men in the dastardly business.

“It was generally thought after the last year's slaughter that a repetition would not occur, owing to the authorities at Denver and Washington having promised their cooperation. Instead, however, the number of Indians in that section this fall has been more than doubled, and it is not to be wondered at that the settlers there are making a grand roar against these annual raids.

“Hardly a day passes but someone comes up from the lower country, and they are unanimous in saying that one cannot realize the amount of damage done until one sees the number of carcasses lying around and piles of hides going towards the reservation.

“Attempts have been made by the game wardens to put a check to this slaughtering, but so far the attempts have been futile. Last night's papers report that Governor Routt has received word from Washington that orders had been sent Agent Waugh to call the Indians in. This is but a repetition of last year's proceedings—that is closing the barn door after the horse is gone. But, just the same, the Indians boastfully assert that they will leave when they get good and ready.

“Much has been said and written about the merciless destruction of our game, laws have been amended at every session of the legislatures and game wardens have been appointed, but it is becoming evident that in a few years they will stand in the same category as the buffalo—nearly extinct.

“During his trip through the lower country, Lou Woodward says he saw fully one hundred wagons loaded with game, pulling for Utah points. The same relentless slaughter has been going on up on Piceance all fall. 'Tis a burning shame, but there seems no way to prevent it.”



Many noted men have visited the country for the excellent hunting and fishing to be found. Trappers and Marvine Lakes are said to have been fairly alive with trout during the 90's, and the White River was unsurpassed as a trout stream. Private and public hunting and fishing lodges were built, men built up regular business enterprises to engage in taking out hunting and fishing parties. Among some of the more prominent of the "dude wranglers" as they were called, were Jake Borah, Steve Baxter, John Goff, John Warner, Elmer Stephenson, Ike Barrier, Sam Hymes, Mark Love, Al Anderson, and Bert Cardnell.

The first development of Trappers Lake as a hunting and fishing resort occurred in 1886, when John C. Osgood constructed a private lodge there. This was operated as a private lodge until 1892, with W. L. Pattison, of Buford, Colorado, as its manager. For several years after that time Jake Borah, Frank Squires, Henry Gladwin and Jack Frey operated the place as a public hotel and resort.

Marvine Lodge was established as a private lodge in 1890, and operated in this manner to 1896. Senator Eddy and a group of Colorado Springs men ran the lodge and accommodated as many as 150 guests at one time. They arrived by stage from New Castle via Mud Springs. In that year it was leased by S. C. Patterson and a man named Wells, and operated as a public lodge until 1899, when it was sold to John Goff. Goff ran it as a public resort until 1902.

The resort at Deep Lake was first conducted by Charles W. Allen, who in 1891 built cabins and maintained a public fishing and hunting lodge there until he sold his improvements to Jake Borah in 1894.

## **THEODORE ROOSEVELT HUNTS MOUNTAIN LIONS**

In January, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt, at that time Vice-President of the United States, spent ten days hunting mountain lions in the lower White River country. Headquarters were established at the Keystone Ranch, then owned by C. C. Parsons of Salt Lake City, in Coyote Basin. Dr. Gerald C. Webb and Dr. Phillip B. Stewart of Colorado Springs were members of the party.

John Goff was guide. Goff was one of the most famous of the early guides. He was a native of Rio Blanco County and was said to be the strongest and most active man in the county. One of his demonstrations was to rope and tie up a lion with no assistance. Speaking of John Goff and Jake Borah, who accompanied him on a bear hunt in the Divide Creek country, Battlement Mesa Forest, in 1905, Roosevelt said: "As guides and hunters we had John Goff and Jake



Borah, than whom there are no better men at their work of hunting bear in the mountains with hounds."

Colonel Roosevelt's story of this hunting expedition appeared in Scribner's Magazine for November, 1901. He covered a lot of country around Colorow and Juniper Mountains, and on February 15 he said: "Goff and I cantered 30 miles to Meeker and the hunt was over."

### **COLONEL WILLIAM T. S. MAY**

Colonel William T. S. May was appointed Superintendent of Forest Reserves for Colorado and Utah, effective May 6, 1898, and continued in this capacity until September 15, 1902. The first work in organizing the administration and protection of the forest reserves in this territory was done under his direction.

Colonel May came to Denver in 1890. He was Adjutant under Governor Routt, and Assistant District Attorney of the 2nd Judicial District. Upon the completion of his service as Superintendent of Forests he moved from Denver to Collbran, where he resumed the practice of law, in which he was engaged at the time of his death on August 9, 1914.

### **CHARLES W. RAMER**

Charles W. Ramer, the first supervisor of the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve, was appointed to that position on August 13, 1898. The headquarters of the forest were established at Meeker and three rangers were appointed to patrol for fires and to prevent trespass. Mr. Ramer continued in this position until December 31, 1898, after which he was a deputy forest ranger on the same forest until May 12, 1900.

Mr. Ramer operated a store and hotel at Livermore, Colorado, until his death about fifteen years ago. He was born at Wolf Lake, Indiana, April 10, 1844. He came to Laporte, Colorado, in 1862. He drove the Overland Stage operating between Denver and California, his section being from the Laporte Stage Station to the Virginia Dale Stage Station.

His son, John E. Ramer (now deceased) served as American Minister to Nicaragua. There are at present two surviving daughters who reside at Fort Collins, Colorado: Miss Nellie G. Ramer and Mrs. Frank W. Moore.



## JAMES A. BLAIR

James A. Blair, who was supervisor of the White River National Forest longer than any other individual—a period of twenty-one and a half years—was born April 24, 1875. He was graduated from the Loveland, Colorado, high school in 1895. He worked at the printing and newspaper business for nine years, being employed most of this time on the *Meeker Herald*. However, he was more interested in outdoor work and was successful in passing the Civil Service examination for assistant forest ranger. On February 12, 1906, he was appointed an assistant forest ranger on the Holy Cross National Forest; was transferred to the Leadville National Forest as deputy forest ranger on June 15, 1906. On November 15, 1906, Mr. Blair was promoted to the position of supervisor of the White River National Forest. He was an active man and was responsible for much of the organizational work in developing fire prevention, range and timber management policies on the White River National Forest.

Mr. Blair died suddenly of a heart attack while catching his horse at the Bar HL summer station while on a field trip, on June 18, 1928. His widow, Mrs. Grace Blair, lives at Loveland, Colorado. She has been helpful in furnishing information for this pamphlet, also the picture of the 1906 supervisors' meeting held at Glenwood Springs.

## PETER RANDOLPH MORRIS

Undoubtedly the most distinguished early day forest supervisor in the United States was Mr. Peter Randolph Morris, who had charge of the White River Plateau Timberland Reserve from May, 1900, through October 31, 1901.

Mr. Morris, a grandson of Gouverneur Morris, member of the convention which framed the Federal Constitution, and subsequently Minister to France in the reign of Louis XVI, was born December 1, 1865, in Morrisania, a mansion in New York City erected by his famed ancestor.

Mr. Morris came to Colorado as a young man, and falling in love with the State, decided to locate here. He purchased a ranch in the Colorado River valley near the town of Grand Valley, and proceeded to develop it. He had a fine herd of cattle, well-bred horses, and later branched out into the raising of fruit, for which this valley is famous. He called the ranch Morrisania, after his ancestral home.

He took an active interest in the affairs of the community and was a commissioner of Garfield County in 1893. Mr. Morris was an



ardent sportsman and outdoor enthusiast. Former Supervisor William R. Kreutzer, who reported to Supervisor Morris for some time, said: "Mr. Morris was a fine man. His horses, riding, pack and camping equipment were the envy of every ranger and cowpuncher in the White River region."

Mr. Morris married Louisa A. Hughes, daughter of the late Andrew S. Hughes, a Colorado pioneer. He became interested in business, was a railroad director and was connected with successful oil operations.

His death occurred October 7, 1934, at the family residence, 707 Washington Street, Denver, where Mrs. Morris still resides.



## EARLY DAYS IN THE FOREST SERVICE

By WALTER JEAN MORRILL, *Professor of Forestry (Retired)*  
*Colorado State College*

I visited the White River Forest during the winter of 1906-7, engaged in examination of forest homesteads. Jim Blair was supervisor, with headquarters in Meeker, while Harry French, in Glenwood Springs, supervised the Holy Cross Forest, also visited by me.

I remember visiting Ranger Lewis A. (Cap) Myrick, on the White River Forest in 1906. A neighboring ranchman desired a free use permit for coal dug out of national forest land by himself and his neighbors. As there was no mention of free use of coal in the Use Book, I wrote to Washington for permission to issue coal free use permits. The Washington Office replied that it had never before been asked to issue such a permit, and asked why the applicant did not file on a coal claim. I replied that he could not afford the fees. I believe the applicant finally received a free use permit.

Cap Myrick was something of a photographer, having taken a wonderful panoramic picture of a large herd of deer. This picture he had enlarged to present one copy to President Theodore Roosevelt, one to Gifford Pinchot, and one to *me*.

All of the rangers and supervisors in 1905 were local men without forestry training, mostly holdovers from the Interior Department administration of forest reserves. There was no regional office; correspondence was to and from the Washington office. Transportation was by horseback. The state newspapers generally were hostile to the Forest Service. Forest officers were not so very popular. Trespass was common. Illegal fencing of range lands was a bone of contention between cattlemen and forest officers. Every possible, and



impossible reservoir site was being sought. Forest officers required much diplomacy, some leniency, considerable firmness punctuated with a sense of humor and friendliness. In all these characteristics I believe the forest officers generally excelled, while the Service was gradually gaining the respect and confidence of the people residing in and near the national forests.

Gradually forestry trained men filtered into administrative positions. Technical forestry and range management was being introduced, while a leavening of the best of the old timers kept the transition from being too drastic and too rapid. It seems remarkable to me that the users of the forests so quickly and so completely accepted the supervision of the forest resources by the forest officers. The people must have recognized the necessity for the changes once they were assured of the integrity of the administrators and the wisdom of conservation practices; it speaks well for the intelligence of our mountain folk, whose superiority I have never seen excelled in the several other sections of the United States with which I am acquainted.

After about seven years of experience in the pioneering days of the Forest Service in Colorado my interests gravitated to forestry education, chiefly in Colorado, where again I pioneered both as State Forester and in developing a forestry school until recently, when I retired.

The contrasts between the old days and the present are more vivid than seems possible to be attained during the next generation.



## REMINISCENCES

By HARRY H. FRENCH, *former supervisor Holy Cross,  
Uncompahgre, Wichita National Forests*

The latter part of July, 1905, I, with some thirty other applicants, attended a Civil Service examination for forest rangers at Paonia, Colorado, conducted by Smith Riley, who later became district forester of District Two, with headquarters at Denver, Colorado.

Much to my surprise, early in the following September I received word from Mr. Riley to report for duty at the earliest possible date to take charge of a district with headquarters on the Frying Pan River at Norrie, a station on the old Colorado Midland Railroad. As I recall it now, the district comprised about one-half of the old original Holy Cross Forest Reserve. I saw Mr. Riley only a few times following my appointment, which was forest guard at \$60 a



month, and I was required to furnish two horses and all my equipment, with the exception of a marking hatchet and scale stick. However, in course of time this situation was remedied and an advance in salary to \$90 per month was forthcoming. In the meantime, however, no reimbursement for personal expenses or upkeep of my mode of transportation, namely, horses, was allowed.

I continued in this position until early January, 1906. In the meantime Mr. Riley was relieved by Mr. Silcox, in fact, as I now recall, in November, some two months after my assignment. In January, 1906, Mr. Silcox called me into the office at Glenwood Springs, but prior to my reporting at this place Shep N. Husted, formerly a guide for the Stanley Hotel at Estes Park, and who had successfully passed the ranger examination, was placed temporarily in charge of the Holy Cross. About this time an attempt was made to fully man the Holy Cross Reserve. I am unable to give exact dates, but Mr. James A. Blair, about this time or possibly a little later, was assigned to the Snowmass District on the Holy Cross. He was here only a short time when he was placed in charge of the Leadville Reserve. It should be remembered these early appointees were political appointees under the Department of the Interior, prior to the taking over by the Department of Agriculture. In this connection, I can well remember Mr. W. T. S. May, superintendent of forests, who was present at the ranger examinations at Paonia, as was his son, the latter competing in the examination. I also, about this time, met Mr. Veatch, as I recall, who had charge of the White River area.

Going back to Mr. Blair's assignment on the Leadville, he was there only a short time, when he was transferred to the White River. Mr. Blair was succeeded on the Leadville by A. L. Stroup. In January, 1907, a joint ranger meeting of the Holy Cross, White River and Leadville reserves was held at Leadville. Following this is when I became closely associated with Supervisor Blair and naturally acquainted with the White River area and its problems, as we frequently consulted each other in administrative matters, particularly relating to the grazing of livestock in connection with inter-forest permits.

The boundaries of the two areas were not designated on the ground and the establishment of the lines was an intricate and strenuous job in those days. When we would arrange for one of these trips, we frequently heard the remark: "Well, the boys are out again for recreation." They seemed to think we were preparing for a large scale outing picnic.

When I think back of the days we spent together on the range



wrestling with the grazing problems, attempting to satisfy some disgruntled user of the forest, as we could not always grant their wishes in the entirety, it brings to mind many pleasant memories. One thing in particular I recall. After Supervisor Blair and I had spent a strenuous day in the field and had returned to our camp (we did not have temporary stations, as the forest areas were not developed like they are at the present writing) and we had prepared our evening meal from what we could find in the pack saddle panniers, and our meager supply of cooking utensils had been well rinsed in a nearby stream, Blair would say: "Well, I'm tired, so I guess I'll count my money and go to bed."

So much for the White River National Forest, and long may it remain, as it has in the past, one of the outstanding areas in Region Two, not only for its value from the standpoint of the timber and grazing resources, but as a reservoir for wild life, due to its varying conditions, its well watered areas, its beautiful streams and lakes so valuable for fish life, its fine recreational possibilities, which all combined can hardly be over-estimated as to its value for these purposes.



## EARLY ORGANIZATION

By WILLIAM R. KREUTZER, *former forest supervisor on Gunnison and Roosevelt National Forests*

Provision for the administration of the forest reserves was contained in the Act of Congress of June 4, 1897. Under this Act, since the care of the reserves was so closely connected with the public land service, the Secretary of the Interior placed the immediate control of the forest reserves under the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

On July 1, 1898, the first attempt was made to organize the Forest Reserve Service on a somewhat permanent basis. The reservations then existing were grouped into eleven districts under as many superintendents, each of these having under his supervision and direction several forest supervisors, in immediate charge of the respective forest reservations assigned to them. Each supervisor had under his personal direction a number of forest rangers, whose duty it was to patrol the reserves to prevent forest fires and trespass, and to see to the proper cutting and removal of timber, and to supervise the grazing of livestock on the open ranges embraced in these forest reservations.

In 1904, the reserve force in the field consisted of 3 inspectors, 5 superintendents, 52 supervisors, 17 first-class rangers, 124 second-



class rangers, and 320 third-class rangers. By executive order dated December 17, 1904, all of this force was placed under the Civil Service.

Each reserve was placed in charge of a forest supervisor and a number of rangers, and they were held responsible for the proper care and administration of the reserve. Each ranger was placed in charge of a division or district. Each forest was divided into divisions or districts. This, briefly, was the starting of the field administration in the United States.



## EARLY DAY RANGER CABINS

Much has been written about Forest Service ranger cabins since the Shoshone Forest made the claim that the Wapiti Ranger Station, built in 1903, was the first one constructed with regularly appropriated *Government funds*. A writer in the *California Ranger* asserts that the West Fork Ranger Station on the Angeles National Forest was constructed in 1900 at a cost of \$70, (plus contributed ranger time), out of an allotment of \$100 definitely set up for that purpose.

Be that as it may, the Shoshone can still claim a first in that the Wapiti Ranger Station was built as quarters for *Forest Supervisor* W. H. Pierce and used as such until 1907, when the supervisor's headquarters was moved from Wapiti to Cody, and the building has since been used at the headquarters for the ranger in charge of the Wapiti District.

Now comes the White River Forest with the claim that Peter Randolph Morris and McKay Russey built what was known as the Clark Cabin in 1890. This cabin was used as a stopping place by hunters and cowmen until 1900, when Mr. Morris became supervisor, at which time it became the summer station for the ranger in charge of that district. After 46 years of service, the sill logs had rotted and the dirt roof, with its cover of grass, leaked to such an extent that the cabin was dismantled.

According to the records in the supervisor's office, the first ranger station constructed on the White River was built in 1902 by Ranger J. V. Seaman, on Bear River near Yampa. Whether this was built entirely by contributed time and ranger donations for windows, doors and hardware, as often happened in the early days, or whether there was an appropriation to cover the cost, is unknown. The cabin was dismantled in 1932.





#### FOREST SUPERVISORS' MEETING—GLENWOOD SPRINGS—1906

*Top row from left to right:* F. C. Spencer (supervisor San Juan); E. R. Hodson (Timber Management inspector from Washington Office); Frank R. Sherwin (forest ranger in charge, Pike); H. K. Porter (supervisor Uncompahgre); H. H. French (supervisor Holy Cross); David Anderson (Battlement Mesa); Fred W. Morrill (forest assistant Holy Cross); Shep Husted (Medicine Bow Reserve, Fort Collins); Eugene Williams (San Isabel and Wet Mountain Reserves).

*Bottom row, sitting:* Wm. T. Cox (forest inspector Washington Office); James A. Blair (forest ranger in charge Leadville Reserve); Sam N. Spring (forest inspector Washington Office); Capt. Jas. B. Adams (forest inspector Washington Office); William R. Kreutzer (Gunnison); H. N. Wheeler (Montezuma); George F. Pollock (law officer Washington Office); Mr. Bembray (clerk Holy Cross Office).

Harry Gibler, in charge White River, was not in this group, but appears in another picture taken at the same time.







